

Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00
DODE-00 DOTE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 FAA-00 L-03 SS-15
NSC-05 /051 W

-----128277 290922Z /20

P 290855Z NOV 77

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3146

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 18351

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAIR, JA

SUBJECT: U.S.-JAPAN CIVIL AIR NEGOTIATIONS

REF: STATE 284080

1. SUMMARY: MOFA ANXIOUS THAT SOME SORT OF REVISED AGREEMENT, EVEN AN INTERIM ONE, BE REACHED BEFORE DECEMBER 31 SO THAT THOSE FAVORING DENOUNCING THE PRESENT BILATERAL DO NOT GAIN UPPER HAND. END SUMMARY.

2. DURING INFORMAL DISCUSSION NOVEMBER 29 HELD PRIOR TO RECEIPT OF REFTEL, MOFA OFFICIAL TOLD US OF FUKUDA'S NOVEMBER 28 CALL ON ASST. SEC. KATZ AND OF POSSIBLE SCENARIO OF LOWER LEVEL TALKS RESUMING DECEMBER 6 WITH SENIOR LEVEL NEGOTIATIONS RESUMING FOLLOWING WEEK DEPENDING ON DEVELOPMENTS. OFFICIAL SAID MOFA EXPECTED FULL CABLE OF KATZ" FUKUDA MEETING THIS AFTERNOON AND WOULD THEN PROCEED TO CONVINCE MOT OF VALIDITY OF THIS APPROACH.

3. MOFA OFFICIAL ALSO ARGUED THAT U.S. COULD NOT EXPECT GOJ TO NEGOTIATE AIRPORT OPERATIONS ISSUE BECAUSE OF SOCIAL AND POLITICAL PROBLEMS SURROUNDING NARITA AND OSAKA. EMBOFF COUNTERED THAT WE ARE NOT ASKING FOR GOJ TO PROMISE THINGS IT CANNOT DELIVER
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BUT TO OFFER INNOVATIVE, CONSTRUCTIVE OPTIONS FOR DEALING WITH THE PROBLEM, PARTICULARLY IN THE SHORT TERM. IN REPLY TO A DIRECT QUESTION, OFFICIAL ADMITTED THAT LANGUAGE IN NOVEMBER 18 POSITION PAPER ABOUT "REALLOCATION" OF SLOTS AT NARITA ON THE "PRINCIPLE OF FAIR AND EQUAL TREATMENT" INCLUDED POSSIBILITY OF REDUCING U.S. CARRIER SLOTS AS WELL AS

INCREASING THEM, BUT CONFIRMED THAT AN INCREASE IN THE SUPPLEMENTALS CHARTER QUOTA WOULD BE ACCOMPANIED BY GUARANTEED SLOTS.

4. COMMENT: MOFA IS INCREASINGLY ANXIOUS THAT SOME SORT OF AGREEMENT, EVEN AN INTERIM ONE, BE CONCLUDED BEFORE YEAR'S END.

HIGH-LEVEL OFFICIALS IN BOTH THE MOFA AND MOT HAVE DEFUSED PREVIOUS DIET INQUIRIES ABOUT THE "UNEQUAL" TREATY AND RENUNCIATION WITH THE ASSURANCE THAT A REVISED AGREEMENT WOULD BE REACHED BY DECEMBER 31. SHOULD THAT DATE PASS WITHOUT SOME SORT OF INTERIM AGREEMENT BEING REACHED, THOSE WHO FAVOR DENOUNCING THE PRESENT BILATERAL COULD GAIN THE UPPER HAND.
MANSFIELD

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AGREEMENTS, CIVIL AVIATION, NEGOTIATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 29-Nov-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977TOKYO18351
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770441-0696
Format: TEL
From: TOKYO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t1977116/aaaaafbn.tel
Line Count: 79
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: a5d8641a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EB
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 STATE 284080
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 18-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 592554
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: U.S.-JAPAN CIVAIR NEGOTIATIONS
TAGS: EAIR, JA, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/a5d8641a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009